UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1206
21 December 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by President of the Russian Federation B. N. Yeltsin, dated 20 December 1998, in connection with the situation concerning Iraq.

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

98-40128 (E) 211298 211298

/...

Annex

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION B. N. YELTSIN

Washington and London have declared a halt to the bombardment of Iraq. The senseless, illegal military action by the United States of America and the United Kingdom has ceased. The Russian Federation, China and many other States firmly insisted on this.

It will still be necessary to assess fully the negative political consequences resulting from the bombardment, not to mention the victims among the civilian population and the substantial damage to the economy of Iraq, which had already been severely crippled by the sanctions. Nevertheless, it is already completely clear that the use of force has only complicated the task of solving the Iraq problem.

Common sense has finally prevailed. The international community must now draw serious conclusions from these tragic events.

Mankind is standing on the eve of the twenty-first century. We must all jointly determine the type of world in which future generations are fated to live. The Russian Federation continues to advocate firmly the establishment of a multipolar world system with the supremacy of international law. The further enhancement of the leading role of the United Nations in world affairs requires particular attention. Precisely this universal Organization must provide collective responses to the new dangerous challenges which the family of nations is encountering. No one has the right to violate the Charter of the United Nations, which for more than a half century now has been a reliable guarantee of peace and stability. I am sure that such an approach on the part of the Russian Federation is in keeping with the aspirations of all peoples, which was strikingly demonstrated in recent days in connection with the events concerning Iraq.

This also relates fully to an Iraq settlement. The Russian Federation advocates the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, which would make it possible to lift the sanctions on Iraq, restore normal life in the country and strengthen stability in the Persian Gulf region. The humanitarian aspect is no less important: the Iraqi people, having been the victim of the bombardment, now more than ever requires broad assistance through the provision of food, medicine and everything else required for bringing about a peaceful existence.

Having firmly expressed its opposition to the action based on force by the United States and the United Kingdom with regard to Iraq, the Russian Federation has once again demonstrated that it is a powerful factor for maintaining stability and security in the world.